Response Strategies to a Remote Inland Oil Spill and Fuel Transfer After a Hurricane

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Challenges

- Logistics:
  - Remote location
  - Shallow marsh
  - Contractors and equipment all in New Orleans.
- Communications:
  - 800mhz radio
  - Nextel
- Salvage Issue:
  - ESF 3 vs ESF 10 money
- GLO Responder Resources

Credit: NASA image courtesy Jeff Schmaltz, from the MODIS Rapid Response Team at NASA GSFC
Damage Assessment
September 24th 2005

Texas General Land Office
Region 1 Head Quarters
Texas General Land Office, Oil Spill Divisions Role:
The Oil Spill Prevention and Response act of 1991 (OSPRA) designated the TGLO as the lead state agency for preventing and responding to oil spills in the marine environment.
Beaumont Area

21000 blue roofs / 4 million cubic yards of tree debris / ½ million cubic yards of tree debris left to recover.

3200 applications for FEMA trailers / 2900 approved as of Jan. 4, 2006. Working on solutions for permanent housing for SE Texas.
Holly Beach
Louisiana
Holly Beach, Louisiana before and after Hurricane Rita

Hurricane Rita swept away the coastal community of Holly Beach, Louisiana (population: ~300). The top image shows the small fishing town in 2004 before the hurricane struck. Early on September 24, 2005, around 3:30 a.m., Hurricane Rita made landfall near the Texas-Louisiana coastal border. The bottom image, taken by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on September 25, 2005, reveals the damage. With the surrounding wetlands under water and roads buried by dirt and debris, little sign of the town remain.
Of the 241 homes assessed by FEMA, 13 qualified for the “blue roof” program. There were 75 others that were severely damaged . . . and 150 were considered destroyed, meaning that 95 percent of the homes in Sabine Pass are uninhabitable.

Photo’s courtesy of Sabine Pass ISD
As of March 16th, 2006 FEMA had handed over keys to 1375 FEMA trailers in Jefferson County, 450 trailers in Hardin County, 822 trailers in Orange County, 373 trailers in Jasper County, 230 trailers in Tyler County and 193 trailers in Newton County.
Barge in yard of Sabine Pass home, ½ mile from shore.

Photo courtesy of NOAA
Approximately 60 fishing vessels sunk.
100,000 gal initially reported
17,000 gal of diesel recovered from tank

View from the Staging Area near Sabine Offshore Services
Response Ideas!

- Chinook Helicopter
- Dredge a canal to access location
- Portable pipeline
- Towable bladders
Incident Management Issues

- HMHTTC Response Inc. (New Jersey based)
- Local cleanup contractors
- Local resources (Shamrock Rentals)
On Scene

Cleanup & Logistics Issues

- Difficulty finding pumps
- Cleanup contractors, food and housing for contractors
- Erosion Issues w/ heavy equipment
- Road repair
Portable pipeline to transfer diesel approx. 2 miles
... to the barge.
Scale of Operation

1.5 miles

2 miles

polyline
Lessons Learned

• Sourcing material needs far from the expected storm activity.
• Planning for humanitarian assistance needs of responders, families and local communities.
• Communications – develop a duplicate Communications Strategy.